



Durham

Environmental Affairs Board

M i n u t e s

January 25, 2005 • 6:00 p.m.
Conference Room A
Ground Floor, City Hall

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Bill Harnett, Will Anderson, Kathi Beratan, Sharon Beard, Ahrash Bissell, Matthew Greenwolfe, and Rick Crume

Members Absent: Dock Terrell (Excused), Howard Glasgow (Unexcused)

Guests Present: Jessica Campese, Paul Quinlan, Liz Forward, Jeff Jensen, Katie Girasty, Sarah LaPlante, and Regan Lyons

Staff Present: Glen Whistler, Kathleen Snyder

Call to Order/Minutes

Chairman Sharon Beard called meeting to order. Minutes of December 14, 2004 were approved 7-0 with two text corrections.

Announcements

Kathleen Snyder informed the Board that Mr. Tim Dodge had received recommendation for appointment from the Joint City–County Planning Committee to fill the vacancy created when Judy Kincaid resigned as the Solid Waste Representative. The City Council would now consider his appointment when it is addressed as one of their agenda items on February 21, 2005.

Ms. Snyder announced that City Council had voted that Darryl Roberts be removed as the City representative for water from the Environmental Affairs Board at their December 20, 2004 meeting. She went on to mention that nominations for the replacement of water seat are welcome and encouraged members to have interested and qualified individuals apply with the City Clerk's Office.

Kathi Beratan informed the Board of a potential Duke sale to a developer of approximately 40 acres on or near New Hope Creek. There are community groups that have organized to raise money for alternatives. Glen Whistler, County Engineer, is very knowledgeable about this transaction and mentioned that the property has been for sale since the 1980s. He went on to say that Duke University's sale price of \$1.5 million is nonnegotiable. The County has suspended approval of the developer's preliminary plat in order to allow it time to assess the feasibility of purchasing the land. The land is not identified for purchase as open space in the New Hope Creek Plan. Mr. Whistler noted the developer's plan is for a cluster development which would preserve all but approximately 12 acres that would contain lots.

Orange County is discussing taking a conservation easement on the portion of the property lying in Orange County.

Ahrash Bissell is to attend a meeting of the Durham Community Environmental Coalition.

Old Business

Kathi Beratan provided an update on the Results Based Accountability initiative. The Healthy Environment working group, of which Ms. Beratan is co-chair, has met three times and has recently submitted a draft report to the County. Ms. Beratan repeatedly emphasized that this report was only a draft and was the product of a rushed attempt to throw something together upon last minute call by the County. There was confusion about the timeline for the process between the County, the City, and the working group. The group selected three indicators. Please reference to the draft report is made for more detail. Ms. Beratan noted that significant text was missing from the draft. Matthew Greenwolfe and Ahrash Bissell postulated that a direct measure of air quality would be a better indicator than vehicle miles traveled. Ms. Beratan noted the effect of weather on measurements of ozone. Sharon Beard summarized the immediate tasks for the Board with regard to the RBA draft report: 1) email to Heidi Duer the important changes in draft; and 2) email Ms. Beratan's original version and Kathleen Snyder's version to the Board members for review and comment.

The Board discussed the draft memo to Ellen Reckhow regarding Durham air quality initiatives. There were some changes to the text made, with particular emphasis on redrafting the concluding paragraph to send a strong message that supports enactment of the recommendations of the memo. The Board moved 7-0 to charge Chariman Sharon Beard with making the changes to the memo and delivering it to Ms. Reckhow.

New Business

The Board briefly discussed the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. Matthew Greenwolfe took Judy Kincaid's place on the working group. Proposals from firms desiring the contract to conduct the update are due on January 28, 2005. Sharon Beard emphasized that the Board should not be charged with leading the Greenhouse Gas Local Action Plan project, but should more properly serve in an advisory capacity through two of its members participating in the working group.

Chairman Sharon Beard asked all members to be thinking about what the Board should work on in 2005 and she declared it her intent to spend the February 2005 meeting discussing and planning for 2005.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m. upon a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
William Anderson, EAB Secretary
January 27, 2005